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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JUL 11 1945

COMMITTEE DESIGNATED TO CONSOLIDATE WFA AND USDA. . . . Pursuant to Executive Order No. 9577, terminating the War Food Administration, the Secretary has set up a Committee on Organization to consolidate the functions of WFA and the USDA. Members of the Committee are: Milton S. Eisenhower, Chairman; W. A. Minor, Vice Chairman; H. B. Boyd; Charles F. Brannan; Wilson Cowen; E. W. Gaumnitz; W. A. Jump; Ashley Sellers, Gerald K. Thorne; and Jesse Tapp. This Committee will confer with all agency heads and will welcome suggestions in writing from any interested employee. The Secretary's Memo which sets up the Committee on Organization directs all agencies of the Department to go forward with current work with the assurance that such organizational changes that may evolve, will be made only after mature consideration.

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RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . June 29, the Anderson Committee submitted an additional report on its food investigation; the President signed a bill continuing authority for a hops marketing order. June 30, the President signed the pay bill, a bill making various amendments to the federal farm loan act, and the price control and stabilization extension bill. The Senate passed the second deficiency appropriation bill with amendments providing funds for enforcement of AAA tobacco quotas, an increase in REA salaries and expenses, and transfer of RFC food subsidies to CCC; later in the day the conferees struck out the food subsidies amendment and Congressional action was completed on the bill. July 2, the Senate completed Congressional action on a bill providing for certification of drugs containing penicillin by the Food and Drug Administration. July 3, the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee reported a resolution to investigate the newsprint shortage; the President approved a bill reducing the 1945 WFA appropriation by two million dollars, the Interior Department appropriation act, and the Labor-Federal Security appropriation act. July 5, the President approved the second deficiency appropriation bill and the House Expenditures Committee reported the corporation control bill.

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SECRETARY CLINTON P. ANDERSON will speak over the American Broadcasting Company network on July 16 at 9:30 p.m., EWT. He will discuss food prospects and is expected also to indicate his policies in regard to wartime food problems.

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FOOD REPORT . . . . As a result of further hearings by the House Specical Committee to Investigate Food Shortages, a third report has just been issued in which the Committee gives particular attention to those foods which become more difficult to obtain as the supply of meat declines. The current report is based on hearings in Washington, D. C., Omaha, Nebr., Minneapolis, Minn., Yakima and Seattle, Wash., and San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif. A few copies are still available from the Office of Information. Ask for House Report No. 842, "Investigation of Food Shortages."

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"HOME CANNING," A WAR MESSAGE. . . . Home canning is one of three war messages scheduled for broadcast on the four major networks the week of July 16-22. The following shows are scheduled by OWI to carry a message on home canning that week: American Broadcasting Company--Ted Malone, Baukhage, Martin Agronsky, the Breakfast Club, John B. Kennedy, America's Town Meeting, and 13 others; Columbia--the new "Beulah" show, Life Can Be Beautiful, The First Line, the Arthur Godfrey show, Quincy Howe-News, the Bennett Sisters, and 12 others; Mutual--Bulldog Drummond, Walter Compton, and 12 others; National--News Roundup, Morgan Beatty, Richard Harkness, Hymns of All Churches, Robert St. John, Woman of America, Hour of Charm, and 11 others. OWI points out in its schedule folio that two-thirds of the canned fruit and half of the canned vegetables consumed by civilians last year were home canned and that home canners are expected to provide more than half of the civilian supply this year.

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SIX STATES HAVE VICTORY GARDEN CONTEST. . . . The Governors of Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri, and Oklahoma have accepted the challenge of Governor Ben Laney of Arkansas for a Victory Garden contest. Under the terms of the challenge each Governor must be a key gardener and have a first-class garden of his own. Forty percent of the State's score will be based on the Governor's garden and 60 percent on State-wide participation in the Victory Garden program. The prize will be a Thanksgiving turkey. Arkansas also has an intra-State, inter-county contest along similar lines with County Judges acting as key gardeners and leaders.

Paul C. Stark, Director of Home Food Supply in the USDA strongly urges these competitive efforts and points out that there is still time for improving gardens in northern States to keep every row working until frost and that in the South there is ample time to start new fall gardens.

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A COTTON POSTER for use in the annual program of the National Cotton Council and Extension Service to improve the grade of cotton should be off the press about August 15. Entitled "Extra Care--Extra Cash," it will also contain the following words of caution: Pick dry as possible; Keep trash out; Pick before weather damage; and Keep good cotton separate. The poster will be placed in cotton gins through the cooperation of the Bureau of Census and in offices of County Agents by Extension Service. National Cotton Council will distribute about 13,000 of the 65,000 copies being printed. The poster will be 18-3/8 X 26 inches in size and in full color.

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MORE POW'S FOR HARVEST SEASONS. . . . About 100,000 prisoners of war will be available the latter part of August for harvesting work. This is an increase of about 15,000 over the peak provided for in a previous agreement with the War Department which expires this month. The men will again be assigned through the nine service command areas of the Army. State Extension directors will determine the type of work they will be asked to perform. For the number allocated to each of the 9 service commands, see USDA press release No. 1236-45.

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HOW TO HARVEST the summer Victory Garden crops to best advantage will be told on Your Home and Garden show come July 14. Moore and DuMars will be the spokesmen as usual for this part of the program; Ruth Van Deman will give up-to-the-minute News for Homemakers.

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FARM CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE. . . . United States farm population decreased from 30,269,000 to 25,190,000 during the five-year-period since January 1940. This represents a decrease of about 16.8 percent and is the smallest number of farm residents in the 35 years than farm population data have been kept. A series of releases on the farm population and related information are currently being made cooperatively by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Four have already been issued: Estimates of Farm Population and Farm Households--April 1944 and April 1940; Farm Population Changes in 1944; Farm Operators in the United States--April 1944 and April 1940; Net Movement Away from Farms in the United States, by Age and Sex--1940 to 1944. Copies are available from BAE.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Changes in canned vegetable set-aside announced--1206; Changes in canned fruit set-aside--1207; Marvin Jones thanks the farmers--1210; Statement by Clinton P. Anderson on taking oath of office--1212; Interview with Secretary Anderson by Everett Mitchell of NBC--1216; Wartime limitations on fertilizer use relaxed--1217; War workers, servicemen to return, say farmers--1224; Funds for tenant-purchase loans allocated--1226; Additional war prisoners available for harvest--1236; U.S.D.A. issues statement on Canadian meat--1237; Butter set-aside for August reduced to 30 percent.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . Action under meat control order extends marking requirements to all slaughterers--OPA-T-3383; Deadline for registration of slaughtering establishments extended--OPA-5723; Class 2 slaughterers may slaughter more cattle and sheep and lambs--OPA-5729; Reports to be filed by dealers of thresher-run or rough cleaned legume and grass--OPA-T-3388; Changes in legume and grass seeds regulation--OPA-T-3414; Country shipper ceiling price for eastern snap beans increased 10 cents a bushel until July 15--OPA-5737.

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AS MANY GARDENS THIS YEAR AS LAST? . . . . Results of a recent Gallup Poll indicate that despite the end of the war in Europe there will probably be about as many Victory Gardens this year as last. Although a few less had been planted the first of June than at a comparable time last year, enough more families say they expect to plant gardens to bring the figure well above last year's total, estimated by the Department at 18,400,000. An unusually late spring no doubt accounts for many gardens not being planted by June, but in most sections of the country there is still time to plant many important Victory Garden crops.

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A CANNING BEE. . . . Consumer Time listeners on July 14 will take an imaginary visit to one of the nation's 6,000 community canning centers. The program is designed to show that community canning is not only fun but a very good way to preserve food and save ration points. On July 21, the subject of the show will be, "Spring time in July," a reminder that parts of the Victory Garden can still be re-planted.

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THE CURRENT FOOD SITUATION and the need for growing and canning food at home will be discussed by Paul C. Stark, Director of Home Food Supply in the Department, on the "Voice of Firestone" program, July 9, 8:30 p.m., EWT (NBC).

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DRIPPINGS FROM YOUR FRYING PAN. . . . Now that the war in Europe is over and we have taken many of the Pacific Islands, housewives are wondering if they should continue to save fats. The answer is a simple and emphatic "YES." Here's the picture in a nut shell: During peacetime we used 10 billion pounds annually of fats and oils for such items as food, soap, paints, textiles, and many other items. Of this 10 billion pounds, we produced four-fifths of our needs out of normal crops of cotton, corn, peanuts, other oil crops, hogs and cattle. We imported one-fifth. Most of these imports came from the Philippines, Malaya, and the Dutch Indies. The war cut off our imports just as we needed more and more fats and oils. War called for more food, medicine, glycerine for explosives, soap for synthetic rubber, paints, varnishes, and other military needs. The American farmer performed production miracles attempting to alleviate the shortage. He boosted production from 8 to 12 billion pounds by raising more soybeans, flaxseed, peanuts, and other oil crops along with more hogs and cattle. But even this amazing production was not enough to satisfy the hungry war machines operating around the globe. By 1943 we were sending almost 1½ billion pounds of fats and oils abroad--one-eighth of our production.

Despite our victories in Europe and the Pacific, the requirement picture remains the same. In addition, our supply lines have lengthened and we must still send fats and oils to liberated Europe. The Philippines can give us no real help until 1946--at the earliest. Their oil-pressing plants have been destroyed, coconut groves have been burned or partly ruined, and the inter-island transportation system has broken down. Stocks of both edible and inedible fats are now the lowest in years. In previous years we have been able to convert some edible fats to inedible uses. However, we will be unable to do this this year. The supply picture is exceedingly black, and the next six or eight months will be the most critical of all.

Saving used fats is harder to do now than before, but it is also more important that every drop be saved. So the answer to Mrs. Housewife is, skim, scrape, and scoop every drop of used fats you can. Even a tablespoonful a day adds up to a pound a month. You get extra points and money for your fats, but most important of all, you help the war effort.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS FOR AUGUST. . . . Peaches will continue to be plentiful through August. Among the processed foods expected to be in good supply are: dry-mix soups; soya flour, grits, and flakes, and wheat flour and oatmeal. As the crop of new potatoes from Southern producting areas begins to move to market, slight shortages experienced in several areas will be eased and by August potatoes are expected to be plentiful. In addition, liberal supplies of locally-grown vegetables will be available in most parts of the country.

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"FOOD AND THE WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION," is the title of an 11-page pamphlet recently issued by WSA "for the information of producers, processors, packers, suppliers and all other members of the food industry." It explains WSA's part in the war effort and especially that of getting food to our troops and Allies. Single copies can be obtained on request to the Office of Information.

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